

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /089 W
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R 010930Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9838
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26589

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PBOR, CB, TH
SUBJECT: CAMBODIANS ATTACK THAI BORDER VILLAGES

1. KHMER ROUGE ATTACKED THREE THAI BORDER VILLAGES IN PRACHINBURI PROVINCE IN THE PAST THREE DAYS, KILLING FIVE VILLAGERS AND BURNING HOMES AND A SCHOOL. OVER 700 THAI VILLAGERS WERE EVACUATED OR FLED FROM THE AREAS. THAIS EVENTUALLY RE-BUFFED THE ATTACKERS, USING HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS.

2. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN PRACHINBURI PROVINCE CLAIMED THAT 400 KHMER ROUGE ATTACKED O LAM CHIEK VILLAGE THE NIGHT OF OCT 30. CONTACT CONTINUED UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON OCT 31. IN ARANYAPRATHET DISTRICT OF PRACHINBURI, KHMER ROUGE ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF BAN PAKKARD-HUANG, KILLING THREE AND BURNING HOMES AND A SCHOOL. SIXTEEN OTHER THAIS ARE REPORTED MISSING. BODIES OF TWO VILLAGERS WERE FOUND RIDDLED WITH BULLETS IN TA PHRAYA DISTRICT, PRESUMED SHOT BY KHMER ROUGE.

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3. LATE PRESS REPORTS NOV 1 INDICATED THAT THE KHMERS FIRED ROCKETS, MORTARS, AND AUTOMATIC RIFLE FIRE ACROSS THE BORDER NOV 1 AND MAY HAVE MOVED TANKS INTO THE AREA. IN THE MEANTIME, RADIO PHNOM PENH HAS CARRIED ANOTHER SERIES OF MILITANT BROADCASTS PRAISING CAMBODIA'S ARMED FORCES' DEFENSE OF THE BORDERS OF THE WESTERN REGION, AS WELL AS IN THE WETERN MEKONG BANK AND KRATIE PROVINCE

AREAS, THE LATTER TWO AREAS BEING ADJACENT TO VIET-NAM.

4. WHILE MFA IS PERPLEXED THAT CAMBODIANS CONTINUE TO BEHAVE IN THIS FASHION TOWARD THAILAND DESPITE CONCILIATORY TALKS HELD IN NEW YORK BETWEEN CAMBODIA'S FONMIN IENG SARY AND THAI FONMIN UPPADIT, THEY STILL BELIEVE THAT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS MAY OCCUR. LOCAL COMMANDERS, IT IS THOUGHT, HAVE EITHER NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR ORDERS REFLECTING THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OR ARE ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE OVERSTEPPING THE BOUNDS OF THEIR ORDERS.

5. COMMENT: WE ALSO SEE NO NECESSARY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE TONE OF IENG SARY'S AND UPPADIT'S TALKS AND THE NEW FIGHTING. WE BELIEVE THE SKIRMISHING RESULTS FROM LOCAL INITIATIVE, COUPLED WITH A DESIRE IN PHNOM PENH TO STAKE OUT ITS CLAIMS AND MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON BANGKOK TO BE FORTHCOMING IN WHATEVER NEGOTIATIONS OR TALKS MAY OCCUR.
WHITEHOUSE

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